

## ~PROVINCE (84)

[Greek, *e-par-khei'a*]

- The Greek term *e-par-khei'a*, rendered, province, refers to the sphere of authority of a Roman administrator. When Rome expanded its conquests beyond the Italian peninsula, the territory or geographic limits of the rule of a governor came to be called a province.
- In 27 B.C.E. the first Roman emperor, Augustus, arranged the 22 then-existing provinces into two categories. The ten more peaceful ones that did not require the constant presence of Roman legions became senatorial provinces. The chief Roman official of this type of province was the **proconsul**.
- Now while Gallio was **proconsul** of Achaia, the Jews rose up with one accord against Paul and led him to the judgment seat. (**Acts of Apostles 18:12**)
- The remaining **provinces** were constituted imperial provinces, being directly responsible to the emperor and administered by a governor and, in larger ones, a military commander called a legate. Imperial **provinces** were often near the frontier or for some other reason required legions to be stationed in them, by closely controlling these provinces the emperor kept the army under his authority.
- After 27 B.C.E. new **provinces** formed from conquered territories became imperial **provinces**. A **province** might be subdivided into smaller administrative sections or districts.

### See Also PROCONSUL

- The status of a **province** could shift between senatorial and imperial. Also, the boundaries of a **province** were sometimes adjusted. As a result, a particular city or area might be in a certain province at one time and later in an adjacent one, or even in a newly formed province. For examples of this,

See Also CAPPADOCIA

See Also CILICIA

See Also PAMPHYLIA

See Also PISIDIA

See Also CYPRUS

- **With the banishment of Archelaus.**
- **But hearing that Archelaus ruled as king of Judea instead of his father Herod, he became afraid to depart for there. Moreover, being given divine warning in a dream, he withdrew into the territory of Galilee. ([Matthew 2:22](#))**
- **Son of Herod the Great, Judea came under the rule of Roman governor's. The governor of the **province** was to some degree responsible to the legate of the larger province of Syria.**
- **When Paul was delivered to Felix at Caesarea, the governor inquired from what **province** he Paul was, and ascertained that he was from Cilicia.**
- **So he read it and inquired from what **province** he was, and ascertained that he was from Cilicia. ([Acts of Apostles 23:34](#))**
- **Tarsus, Paul's birthplace, was in the Roman **province** of Cilicia.**
- **I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but educated in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, instructed according to the strictness of the ancestral Law, being zealous for God just as all of you are this day. ([Acts of Apostles 22:3](#))**
- **The governor of an imperial **province** was appointed by the emperor for no set period of office, unlike the proconsul of a senatorial province, who normally served for only one year. Felix was replaced as governor of the imperial **province** of Judea by Festus.**
- **Therefore Festus, after entering upon the government of the **province**, went up three days later to Jerusalem from Caesarea. ([Acts of Apostles 25:1](#))**

**See Also JURISDICTIONAL DISTRICT**